

# NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service  
Santa Fe National Forest**



**For Immediate Release  
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## **SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST TO REINSTATE FIRE RESTRICTIONS**

**(SANTA FE, NM)**—Following a series of wildfires, and a drying trend, the Santa Fe National Forest and Valles Caldera National Preserve have decided to implement Stage I Fire Restrictions in some of the more highly used areas. Campfires will be limited to developed recreation sites where grills are provided. Smoking is permitted only in vehicles, enclosed building or in developed campgrounds. Restrictions will go into effect at 8 a.m., Tuesday, July 1, 2003.

Under Stage I Restrictions are: the Jemez Ranger District, the adjoining Cuba District and portions of the Espanola District along the area surrounding Hyde State Park and east to the Pecos River on the Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District and the Valles Caldera National Preserve.

Areas not under restrictions include: the Pecos River north of Terrero, NM, the remainder of the Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District east to Las Vegas and Mora; the Coyote Ranger District. The Pecos, Rio Chama and San Pedro Parks Wilderness areas will also not be under restrictions.

Fire management officials cite the recent dry weather and minimal rainfall as a factor in their decision to impose restrictions. “Some areas of the forest are much wetter than other areas. Where we can, we will reduce the chances of wildfires in the areas most susceptible until forest conditions change,” said Paul Orozco, Fire Management Officer.

“These restrictions will be in place through the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend until the monsoons arrive,” added Orozco, “We ask people visiting the forest to use extreme caution with their campfires, to be aware of their surroundings, and of forest conditions. Fireworks are never permitted in national forest system lands.”

As a reminder to forest visitors: area closures are still in place for the Cerro Grande Fire area as well as the Borrego Fire area. These closures were imposed during the fires and are still valid given the hazards that still exist in those areas (falling limbs, trees, stump holes).

Additional fire information can be obtained at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire>. For other fire restrictions on public lands in the southwest, call toll free 1-877-864-6985. To report a fire, call (505) 438-7800.

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